

Do we need a wealth tax now? Or do we need to tax the i...

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Because I was otherwise engaged I missed a seminar this morning, advertised here:

https://twitter.com/Summers_AD/status/1278591786231959555

The conclusion of that poll was very clear:

<https://twitter.com/arunadvaniecon/status/1278575250515660800>

So it looks like Arun and Andy are into something.

But, I have my concerns. They're based on this tweet from the same thread:

https://twitter.com/Summers_AD/status/1278591789788794880

I know many of those in that thread. Some are pretty good people. And technically strong. But I have a problem. None are noted for their desire for change. There is no campaigner on this issue there, at all. The political case for change is, then, I suggest absent. And that matters. Change will only come if there is a political argument and that has to be rehearsed as part of this process.

But there's something else as well. I hate to say it, but I think the wrong question is being asked by Andy and Arun.

I address [this issue here](#). The point that I made was a simple one. It is that it takes a long time to develop a wealth tax. It will be some years before anything could happen. That's just the way it is now with regard to implementation of major tax change. But what we need is a radical, quick reform to deliver significant tax reform now to reduce inequality of income and wealth to release funds for spending by redistribution (and note that the economics of this are being dealt with by the IFS In the above proposal, and they are not macroeconomics).

In that case as the Tax After Coronavirus (TACs) project has argued, what we really need now is not a wealth tax but is instead radical reform to the way in which income

derived from wealth is taxed. This could deliver the quick reform that we need. And that is why I am not at all sure that the right question is being asked by this research.